

[English]

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"The Governor should not risk determining the issue of majority support, on his own, outside the Assembly. The prudent course for him would be to cause the rival claims to be tested on the floor of the House."

[Translation]

He could have invited anyone to form the Government as per practice, who had the largest peoples' mandate. He can appoint anyone as Chief Minister for a period of six months. Your Government and the Governor, both are depriving the 15 crore people of the State of a popular Government and you want to halt the development of the State through the Governor. Today, the entire development work in Uttar Pradesh has been lying stand still. Uttar Pradesh has been under the President's Rule since 1995 and it had remained under the President's Rule earlier also. You have again extended the President's Rule. One sixth of India's Population live in Uttar Pradesh, where you do not want to initiate democratic system. You intend to keep Uttar Pradesh backward and India poor. You intend to halt the development work in Uttar Pradesh. Incidence of demanding ransom has risen during the last two months and the people are being murdered. What is happening today in Fatehpur and Allahabad. He has explained the State of Affairs in Ghaziabad. What has been happening in Barabanki, Lakhimpur and Hamirpur. How the people have been killed and being killed there. The Home Minister is directly responsible for deteriorating law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Joshi ji, how much more time would you take? If you are going to complete shortly, then the Minister of Railways will give statement after your speech. If you want to take more time, then first let the Minister of Railways make the Statement because he has to go to the other House. Can we first let the Minister make the Statement?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : At what time you have to go to other House?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : I had to go to 3.30 p.m....(Interruptions) But the problems is that there the members ask clarification after the Statement.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Here, there will be no clarification.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It depends on the Chair.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Let him finish his statement...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him intervene and make his statement. Now, the Railway Minister will make a statement on the accident at Ambala.

15.34 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Bomb blast in Jhelum Express at Ambala Cantt. Station on 02.12.96

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is with deep anguish that I apprise the House of an unfortunate incident of blast in a sleeper coach of Jammu bound Jhelum Express (Train No. 1077UP) at Ambala Cantt. Railway Station at About 02.20 hrs. on 02.12.96.

Trains No. 1077 UP Jhelum Express left New Delhi Railway Station at 21.50 hrs. on 01.12.96 and arrived Ambala Cantt. Railway Station at about 01.55 hrs. on 02.12.96. The blast occurred in the sleeper coach No. CR-5370 (S-4) when the train was about to leave from platform No.6 of Ambala Cantt. Railway Station.

In this incident, as per the latest reports, 10 passengers have died and 29 persons have been injured, who have been admitted in various hospitals i.e. Civil Hospital, Military Hospital and Rly. Hospital and Ambala and to PGI/Chandigarh. 12 injured have been discharged after first aid.

Prima-facies, the blast was caused by an Explosive Device. Government Railway Police, Ambala Cantt. have registered a case FIR No. 559 dated 02.12.96 under Section 307-IPC and 4 & 5 Explosive Substances Act. The case is under investigation with Government Railways Police of Haryana State. I have also ordered an enquiry into the incident by the Commissioner for Railway Safety.

I, alongwith the Minister of State for Railways and Chairman Railway Board visited the site of blast in the morning of 02.12.96 General Manager/Northern Railway had earlier rushed to the site with heads of Departments and team of doctors for providing medical relief and the restoration operations. Ex-gratia payments at the rate of Rs.15,000/- each for the dead, Rs.5000/- each for serious/grievous injured and Rs.2000/- each for those with simple injuries has been ordered to be paid/paid to the next of kin of the deceased and to the injured persons.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Compensation has been paid or not?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Those who were present there have since been paid the compensation. Others will be paid the compensation as and when they approach. Therefore, I have made both the provision ... (Interruptions) Their next of kin has been paid the compensation.

Apart from this each deceased is also covered with an insurance covered of Rs. 2 lacs and an amount ranging from Rs. 16000/- to Rs. 2 lacs to the injured depending upon the nature of injuries sustained by them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : First let the Minister complete the Statement.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : In addition, Shri Bansi Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana, has also announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 50,000 for each of the deceased Rs. 10,000 for the seriously injured and Rs. 5,000 each for those with simple injuries. The Trains left Ambala Cantt. at 04.40 a.m. after ditching 3 bogies.

The Railway have taken the following measures to strengthen the security arrangements :

- (1) Field staff have been advised to maintain maximum alert while on duty.
- (2) Intensive security checks have been ordered to be carried out at railway station buildings and platforms etc. specially in the sensitive areas like toilets, waiting halls, and booking counters etc.
- (3) Rakes and lower frames are thoroughly checked in washeries and coaching yards, jointly by Railway Security force, Police and passenger coach personnel and from there to the platform these are taken amidst tight security. Coaches are again checked at platforms.
- (4) Sniffer dogs are being deployed to trace out the explosives.
- (5) Announcements are being made at every important station through public address system to advise the passengers to be alert and not to touch any unidentified object which may be a bomb. If any such unclaimed object is found then an information in this regard should be given to railway security forces/Rail employees.
- (6) A close contact and coordination is being maintained with the State police and all concerned officials to collect information in this regard.

I even met the Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Bansi Lal and requested him to make a thorough probe in this matter.

All rails employees and I myself convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved families and sympathies to the persons injured in the incident.

I earnestly hope that the House is with me in conveying our heart felt condolence to the bereaved families.

15.37 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH-CONTD.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr, Chairman, Sir, I am quoting from the report of the Sarkaria Commission;

[English]

"The Governor should not risk determining the issue of majority support on his own outside the assembly. The prudent course for him would be to cause the rival claims to be tested on the floor of the House."

[Translation]

None other than our party has staked claim to form the Government. Had there been any, we could have understood the contention of the Governor. We had staked claim that we were in a position to form the Government and hence, we should be given an opportunity to form the Government. In the event of our failure to form the Government or in the event of our Government's fall during the test of strengthen some other party could have been given an opportunity. But see the paradoxical situation, the Assembly has been elected, but the House has not been constituted and the elected members of the Legislative Assembly have not been administered the oath of office. What does it mean? What is the intention behind it? I fail to understand as to which precedents of the constitution are being followed. What have been done in the meantime-I will come to that a little later. Right now, I would like to caution the House about the fate of the Constitution under the provision of which the Central Government is being empowered to assume powers? Bommai case is quite often referred to here. Similar references are made to Article 356 of the constitution and the directions of the Supreme Court thereon. In this context, I am quoting from an article written by Soli J. Sohrabji and printed in a book form: